

# Timeline: Revolutionary Era

## General Historical Events

## Diplomatic Documents & Events

1775

April: Lexington & Concord

May: Washington becomes Commander-in-Chief

June: Battle of Bunker Hill

Dec.: Bonvouloir reports to the Count of Guines

1776

Mar.: British evacuate Boston  
Close colonies to foreign trade

Jan.: Thomas Paine's *Common Sense* published

July: Declaration of Independence Ratified

Aug.: Silas Deane's first diplomatic dispatch

Sept.: Plan of the Treaties with France/Instructions to the Agent

Dec.: Recruitment of Lafayette

1777

Oct.: Major American victory at Saratoga, NY

Dec.: American troops winter at Valley Forge

1778

Feb.: Treaty of Amity & Commerce with France  
*Act Separate and Secret between US & France*

Dec.: British forces begin their Southern campaign

1779

June: Spain declares war on Great Britain

1781

June: Americans prepare to oppose Cornwallis in Virginia  
Congress appoints a Peace Commission

Oct.: Cornwallis surrenders to Washington at Yorktown

1782

Apr.: Conversation between Franklin & Oswald

May: Franklin's Peace Journal

Nov.: John Adams' Peace Journal

1783

Aug.: Last fighting of the war occurs in South Carolina

Sept.: Paris Peace Treaty  
*Franklin on Establishing Diplomatic Relations*

1785

June.: John Adams' first meeting with George III